meeting on thermal power generation and distribution, held recently in New Delhi;

(b) what is the comparative performance of the member countries participating in the Conference regarding cost of generation and transmission losses; and

(c) what are the recommendations of the Conference for increasing efficiency in these Sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of fake medicines by DESU Dispensaries

2326. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dispensaries attached to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have been found to be issuing sub-standard and fake medicines to its beneficiaries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these dispensaries have also been found to be supplying post-expiry dated medicines to the beneficiaries; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to prevent supply of such medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) According to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU), some cases of supply of alleged substandard medicines to them by certain suppliers/firms and issue of some such medicines including post-expiry dated medicine through its dispensaries have come to their notice.

(c) The DESU has taken immediate action in all specific instances of supply of sub-standard medicines. The action taken includes stoppage of issue of the allegedly sub-standard/ poor quality medicines, withholding payments for supplies, cancellation of orders, debarring the suppliers from busines with DESU, referring the cases to the Drug Controller, Delhi Administration, and getting replacement of supplies. Investigations are also made to fix the responsibility of any employee of the Undertaking.

Indigenous Coke Technology

2327. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Formed Coke Technology developed at Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad was successfully tested by means of Blast Furnace trials at Kalinga Iron Works, Orissa and Indian Iron & Steel Co., Kulti;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this indigenous technology was not utilised and a process technology from the U.K. for Low Temperature Carbonisation (LTC) was imported for Dankuni Plant; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for neglecting the indigenous technology?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Formed coke produced on the basis of Central Fuel Research Institute technology was tested in low shaft blast furnace at Kalinga Iron Works, Barbil (Orissa) and Indian Iron and Steel Company at Kulti. As the volatile content of formed coke was higher than the desired level, the process of making formed coke was modified. However, the technology has not been upgraded to an economically viable commercial venture.

A High Powered Committee set up to suggest technology for Dankuni Plant recommended adoption of a

commercially proven British technology. CFRI technology could not adopted due to inadequacy of basic design and Engineering data.

Changes in the new Drugs Price Control order

2328. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a widespread feeling amongst the consumer groups that the new Drugs Price Control Order does not have a rational planning as reported in the Economic Times of 3rd October, 1987; and

(b) whether Government have any plans to make requisite changes in its policy to make new DPCO more rational and tuned to consumer needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Medical reimbursement to Managing Director of NTPC

2329. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of NTPC has been given huge advances on account of medical treatment abroad, undertaken without prior intimation which is neither admissible nor recoverable from him within the existing tenure of his service;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the present Managing Director has been given extension of tenure beyond the age of superannuation; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) In 1985, the then Chairman and Managing Director of the National Thermal Power Corporation was given US $ 25,000 by the Corporation, against surety bonds and with the authorization of the Reserve Bank of India, for undergoing highly specialised surgery abroad, on expert medical advice, relating to critical coronary artery disease.

(c) and (d) On completion of the tenure of appointment, the officer has since relinquished charge of the post on 3rd November, 1987.

Appointments in DESU

2330. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules have been framed or norms laid down for appointment to the lower, middle and senior level posts in the managerial cadre in the DESU;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and whether it is a fact that a large number of clerical appointments have been made in the DESU without following any rules during the last five years; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) According to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, Recruitment and Promotion (R&P) Regulations for